

### Amendments to the Specification

On page 1, immediately after the title, please insert the following:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application is a national stage filing based on International Application No. PCT/GB99/02420 (WO 00/07786), filed August 6, 1999, which in turn claims priority to British Application Serial No. 9817094.7, filed August 6, 1998. --

On page 7, immediately after line 23, please insert the following paragraphs:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a graph comparing the pKa of various acids with the internal bond strength of the boards prepared in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a graph showing the effect of replacing 40% of the resin with maleic acid on internal bond strength (IBS) of boards prepared in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a graph illustrating the effect of replacing 40% of the resin with maleic acid on internal bond strength (IBS) after soaking the series of boards in water.

FIG. 4 is a graph illustrating the degree of thickness swell after replacing 40% of the resin with maleic acid after soaking the boards in water.

FIG. 5 is a graph showing the effect of replacing 25% of the resin with maleic acid on internal bond strength (IBS).

FIG. 6 is a graph illustrating the effect of replacing 25% of the resin with maleic acid on internal bond strength (IBS) after soaking the series of boards in water.

FIG. 7 is a graph illustrating the degree of thickness swell after replacing 25% of the resin with maleic acid after soaking the boards in water.

FIG. 8 is a graph comparing the retained internal bond strengths of boards, which were pressed at various times and then subjected to soaking in cold water.

FIG. 9 is a graph comparing the retained internal bond strengths of boards, which were pressed at various times and then subjected to soaking in cold water. --